PRAYER

Fajr	5.59
Zuhar	12.41
Asr	4.33
Maghreb	6.07
Isha	7.24

Starting time in Karachi

REFLECTIONS

"MAN IS A WONDERFUL CREATURE; HE SEES THROUGH THE LAYERS OF FAT (EYES), HEARS THROUGH A BONE (EARS) AND SPEAKS THROUGH A LUMP OF FLESH (TONGUE)."

— HAZRAT ALI (A.S.)

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Over 450 graduates awarded degrees at AKU's 38th convocation

Princess Zahra formally made university's pro-chancellor

By Our Staff Reporter

KARACHI: The Aga Khan University (AKU) held its 38th convocation on Saturday, awarding degrees to 461 students in 18 programmes.

The ceremony also saw Princess Zahra Aga Khan being formally installed as the university's first pro-chancellor.

In her remarks, she said: "The university's geographic expansion has seen the AKU's presence expand across Pakistan, into more cities and villages than ever before. From Karachi to Matiari, from Lahore to Gilgit, the university's healthcare professionals, educators, and researchers are part of the fabric of people's lives."

In his message, AKU's Chancellor Prince Rahim Aga Khan noted that the university and its graduates carried "both an extraordinary responsibility and an extraordinary opportunity: to create, to disseminate, and to apply knowledge in ways that improve the quality of human life."

Also present at the ceremony was Shamsh Kassim-Lakha, AKU founding president and chairman of the Board of Trustees of the University of Central Asia, a sister university of AKU within the Aga Khan Development Network.

Noorish Khan, Syeda Tasmiya Mohiuddin, Dr Hamzah Jehanzeb, and Sara Karim Sadruddin received Best Graduate Awards in their respective undergraduate programmes in dental hygiene, education, medicine, and nursing.

Valedictorian Muhammad Taha Nasim thanked AKU's faculty, noting how they challenged graduates to reach their "highest standards" while teaching them that "excellence without empathy is empty."

This year saw the graduation of the first cohort from the Institute for Educational Development's Bachelor of Education programme.

The university conferred Awards of Distinction upon several faculty and staff, recognising their sustained contributions to innovation, research and leadership. Professor Emeritus Mushtaq Ahmed received the President's Medal in recognition of his services as an eminent surgeon and academic leader.

"Pakistan's young people are inclusive, comfortable across faiths and perspectives, and aware that a divided society cannot meet shared challenges. Digitally fluent, they see technology not as disruption but as opportunity — to expand knowledge, build skills, and apply learning in practical ways," said AKU President Dr Sulaiman Shahabuddin.

According to a press release, the university continues to address Pakistan's critical development challenges through a commitment to access and excellence. "With nearly 70 per cent of the graduating class being women, the university is actively addressing the gender gap in a country where millions of girls remain out of school.

"The graduates are filling important workforce gaps. For example, in a country with a nurse-to-population ratio of just 5.2 per 10,000, AKU alumni now hold high-level leadership positions in approximately 80 schools of nursing and midwifery," it says.

Last year, the university secured more than $100-million research funding and 27 faculty members were ranked among the top two per cent of scientists globally in a study conducted by a Stanford University researcher.

PROF Emeritus Mushtaq Ahmed leads the procession of graduates during the convocation.

"To ensure talented students with limited financial means are able to attend AKU, the university provides financial assistance to a large portion of the student body. In the last academic year, the university provided assistance to 72 per cent of students across all classes and programmes in Pakistan," the statement reads.

JSMU admissions test today

By Our Staff Reporter

KARACHI: Over 4,000 candidates are expected to participate in the admission test being organised by Jinnah Sindh Medical University (JSMU) on Sunday (today).

According to a press release, 4,200 were deemed eligible after scrutinising 4,839 candidates from across the province.

The university's test is being held for 510 seats in the nursing, physical therapy, pharmacy and medical technology programmes.

"Arrangements have been made for 4,600 candidates to appear in the examination. For supervision, 257 invigilators and cluster heads (team leaders) have been appointed. Results will be announced on the university's website," the press release added.

Talk of Gen Z bringing about change in the world is quite overrated, moot told

State of global politics reviewed in PIIA seminar

By Shazia Hasan

KARACHI: Strains on the global economy, the uprising of Generation Z and its growing impact, as well as issues of war, deterrence and escalation in the world largely shaped 2025 as the Pakistan Institute of International Affairs (PIIA) reviewed the state of global politics on Saturday.

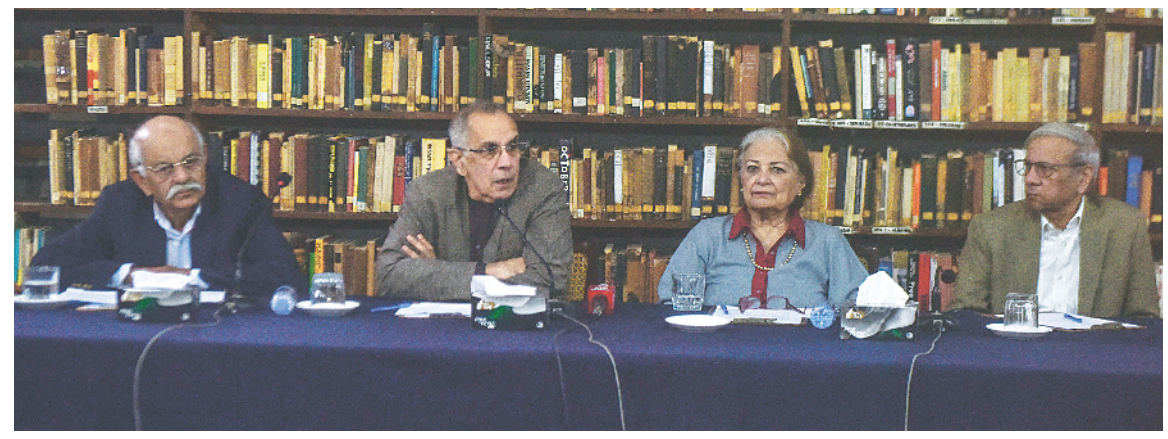
The chairperson of PIIA, diplomat and scholar Dr Masuma Hasan reminded how the past year was full of conflicts, the worst of which was in Gaza. "There was also Sudan where 12 million Sudanese left their own country, there was the Ukraine war, strikes on Iran, while in Haiti, criminal gangs ruled the country. Also, there was the crisis in Venezuela where the president was kidnapped by the United States of America. And in between there were tensions between the US and China and the US and the European Union. Still, the Gaza genocide overshadowed all other conflicts," said Dr Hasan.

Economist Dr Kaiser Bengali also said that the turbulence created by the US in 2025 is not likely to go away. He also said that talk of Generation Z bringing about change in the world is quite overrated.

"Every generation is different from the previous generation. And every previous generation has contributed something or the other to the world. So to say that this is the generation that is going to change the world is not correct as the world has also been changing," he said.

"The Gen Z revolts that have been taking place have not delivered anything. The spring revolutions that came did not deliver anything and ultimately the status quo came back, though maybe with different faces and different names," he added.

"In Bangladesh, nothing will change. The same elite is going to run the country. The only change that has happened is in Sri Lanka where a Leftist party has come into power. Otherwise, Sri Lanka has always been ruled by one or two families. In Pakistan, we overthrew Ayub Khan, we overthrew Musharraf through mass protests but then we found that we were still where we began. No change. So I think that this entire Gen Z thing and its revolt is overrated because change never comes by mobs on the street. In Iran, too, the protests are already dying down and the Ayatollah will continue to rule.



DR S. AKBAR Zaidi speaks as Dr Masuma Hasan, Dr Kaiser Bengali and Dr Muhammad Abid Rao look on.—Fahim Siddiqi / White Star

"You need to have an organised resistance. Until and unless there is organised resistance you cannot sustain your movement and bring about the changes that you want to bring. And the thing about organised movement is that you need to organise around a strategy," Dr Bengali explained.

'We are living in the era and aura of Trump'

Economist and Executive Director of the Institute of Business Administration (IBA) Dr S. Akbar Zaidi added to that by saying that "We are living in the era and aura of the US President Donald Trump. His is a muscular government," he said.

"There are especially two instances under the current US President that have shown the military might and the precision of the military might of the US that we had not seen for many decades," said Dr Zaidi.

"Earlier, there had been many attempts by the US government to intervene to change governments but two things that they did in the last seven months show the precision and military science of the US Army that has Donald Trump as its commander-in-chief. One was about Iran, where the planes flew from the middle of the United States to bomb where Iran's nuclear facilities were supposed to be. And another thing was the recent kidnapping of Maduro, the president of Venezuela. It was a raid, not an invasion," he pointed out.

"This has been written about as a lurch to the past, a new kind of imperialism. It is a resource imperialism. It is interesting to see that unlike Iraq or Libya and other places where the mantra was democracy or regime change, in the case of Venezuela it is nothing of the sort. Trump has said that he now runs Venezuela. And it is all for and about oil. It is no longer about democracy or regime change, it is about power and natural resources. The US national defence strategy of 2025 under Trump says that 'the United States cannot allow any nation to become so dominant that it could threaten our interests'."

Meanwhile, speaking about war, deterrence and escalation in the world, Air Vice Marshal Dr Muhammad Abid Rao, who is a member of the research faculty of the PAF Air War College, said that in America, their economy is largely based on the sale of weapons. Therefore, it is very important for America to have a war at any given time in different parts of the world.

"If you see from 1945, America came and settled in Europe and the Pacific region and till today they have not vacated those bases, be it UK, Belgium, Holland or Germany. France is the only country there which did not allow the Americans to make a base there. If you see the Pacific to the Philippines, to Japan to Thailand and so many other islands, you will find American bases there.

"They had missed out on the Middle East. So in 1990, America prompted Iraq to take over Kuwait. That gave America an excuse to have the first Gulf War. So they attacked and destroyed Iraq and made bases there. Today, they have bases in Oman, UAE, Qatar, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia. Iraq is wiped out, so is Syria.

"Let me take you back to the Arab-Israel war of 1973. There were moments in that October war when Israel would have collapsed had the Americans not warned them about the Egyptian surprise attack. Israel and America then formulated the policy that any country who has the potential or capability to threaten Israel should be neutralised," the Air Vice Marshal explained.

103 lose battle against mosquito-borne diseases in 2025

Continued from Page 13

home, indicating that the scale of the public health crisis experienced last year was much bigger and serious than what was reflected, even in the news stories flashed in the media.

"There was a big surge in dengue cases, in particular, and we saw considerable patients co-infected with both dengue and malaria. The cases continued to trickle even till December although previously we had seen the seasonal surge subside by the end of the year," recalled Dr Samreen Sarfaraz, senior infectious diseases expert at the Indus Hospital.

Responding to a question about the high number of mosquito-borne mortalities at the hospital, she explained that those patients presented with severe disease.

"Dengue patients who died had been admitted in a state shock. They had bleeding manifestations or organ dysfunction. Many patients had a severe course within a few days of abrupt onset of fever.

"In case of malaria, patients who died usually had very high parasitic loads of falciparum (a blood parasite that causes the most severe form of malaria) or mixed malaria and presented with severe anaemia, mental obtundation (a state characterised by reduced level of consciousness and slowed response to stimulation), renal shut down, shock and /or respiratory distress."

She further stated that while there was an effective anti-malarial medicine, prompt diagnosis and treatment was needed to prevent complications and mortality as parasitic load increased rapidly when the patient was left untreated.

"(Malaria) Patients who died usually had high parasitic loads underscoring the need for early case detection and prompt treatment."

The expert emphasised the need for draining out stagnated water, which provided a breeding ground for these insects.

"In order to curb these common and serious vector borne infections, we need to take effective mosquito control measures both at personal and government level. Using bed nets, mosquito repellents along with draining all stagnating water puddles is crucial."

About the danger signs people needed to be aware of, Dr Sarfaraz said: "Sudden high grade fever with body aches and vomiting might be due to dengue or malaria. Seeking care from a qualified health care provider promptly for early diagnosis and management saves lives and prevents complications."

پاکستان پوسٹ، ازدفتر پوسٹ ماسٹر جنرل بلوچستان

ٹینڈر نوٹس برائے اسٹیشنری آئٹمز مالی سال 26-2025ء

پوسٹ ماسٹر جنرل بلوچستان سرکل کوئٹہ کو کے لئے 26-2025 کے دوران اسٹیشنری آئٹمز کی خریداری کیلئے سیلز ٹیکس رجسٹرڈ فرمز جو کسی بھی مجاز اتھارٹی سے بلیک لسٹ نہ ہوں اسٹیشنری سپلائی کا وسیع تجربہ رکھتی ہوں۔ ان سے ٹینڈر مطلوب ہے۔

شرائط برائے پیشکش ٹینڈر۔

برائے مالی سال 26-2025 کے دوران اسٹیشنری آئٹمز کی فراہمی کے لئے کوئٹہ میں قائم فرمز جن کے پاس باقاعدہ دکان/اسٹور/آفس اور ٹیلیفون کی سہولت موجود ہوں اور محکمہ سیلز ٹیکس میں باقاعدہ رجسٹرڈ ہوں سے سربمہر پیشکش مطلوب ہیں۔

1- دلچسپی رکھنے والی فرمز مندرجہ ذیل دستاویزات بصورت لسٹ پی پی آر اے (PPRA) کی ویب سائٹ پر اپ لوڈ کرینگے۔

(الف)۔(فرم۔کمپنی مالک۔کا شناختی کارڈ کی کاپی)

(ب)۔(اے جی پی آر وینڈر نمبر)

(ج)۔(ٹیلیفون اور موبائل نمبر)

(ج)۔(100 روپے کی مالیت کے اسٹامپ پیپر پر بیان حلفی کے کمپنی بلیک لسٹ نہیں ہے)

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3- کوئی بھی دستی دستاویز ماسوائے بینک ڈرافٹ قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔ تمام مطلوبہ دستاویزات E PAD پر اپ لوڈ کرنا لازمی ہے۔

4- پیش کردہ نرخ 30-06-2026 تک نافذ العمل رہیں گے۔

5- منتخب شدہ فرم مختصر نوٹس پر اپنے ذرائع سے دفتر پوسٹ ماسٹر جنرل بلوچستان سرکل کوئٹہ میں مطلوبہ اسٹیشنری آئٹمز پہنچانے کی پابند ہوگی۔

6- مجاز اتھارٹی کسی ایک یا تمام ٹینڈر کو انتظامی و مالی یا دیگر وجوہات کی بناء پر (PPRA-2024) کے مطابق وجہ بتائے بغیر مسترد کرنے کا حق رکھتی ہے۔

7- فرمز جن اشیاء کے نرخ دے گی ان میں تمام ٹیکسز بشمول جی ایس ٹی شامل شامل کرنا ضروری ہوگا۔

8- اگر آئٹمز غیر معیاری یا مقدار سے کم پایا گیا یا ان کی فراہمی بروقت نہ کی گئی تو مجاز اتھارٹی سال کے دوران (PPRA-2024) کے مطابق کنٹریکٹ کو کلی یا جزوی طور پر منسوخ کرنے کا اختیار محفوظ رکھتی ہے اور سیکورٹی کی رقم ضبط کرلی جائے گی۔

9- ہر لحاظ سے مکمل ٹینڈر ٹیکنیکل اور فنانشل پیشکش ایک ہی دن مورخہ 10 فروری 2026ء دن 11:00 (گیارہ بجے) تک (E-PADS) کی ویب سائٹ پر اپ لوڈ ہو جانا چاہیے جو اسی دن 12:00 (بارہ بجے) دفتر پوسٹ ماسٹر جنرل بلوچستان سرکل کوئٹہ میں کھولے جائیں گے۔

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